

REMARKS

The second non-final Office Action mailed February 14, 2003 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 19 have been amended, and new claim 20 has been added.

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6332881 to *Carner et al.*

Carner et al. fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, all the elements of Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 14, and 19. Applicant maintains the arguments set forth in first non-final Office Action Response with regard to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on *Carner et al.*

Carner et al. fails to disclose a distal tip which has an opening in fluid communication with a lumen. The distal tip as claimed by the Applicant provides exterior access to the lumen. *Carner et al.* also fails to disclose a guide member configured for longitudinal movement out the distal opening and configured for entry into a coronary sinus ostium. Furthermore, *Carner et al.* fails to disclose a stabilizing member as claimed by the Applicant.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 14, and 19 to expedite prosecution. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 14, and 19 to recite that the opening in the distal tip of the tubular support member provides external access to the lumen. Additionally, amendments to the claims recite that the support member is deployable external to the tubular support member.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 14, 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5902268 to *Saab*.

Saab fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, all the elements of Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 14, 17, 18 and 19, as amended. *Saab* fails to disclose a tubular support member having a distal tip with an opening providing external access to a lumen of the tubular support member. Furthermore, *Saab* fails to disclose a guide member configured for longitudinal

movement out the distal opening and configured for entry into a coronary sinus ostium, for example.

Saab and *Camer et al.* fail teach all of the claim elements of Applicant's invention as set forth in the independent claims 1, 14, 17, 18, and 19. Applicant's invention is not anticipated by these references.

In paragraph 3 on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6332881 to *Camer et al.*, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4969890 to *Sugita et al.* The Examiner asserts that *Sugita et al.* teaches a guide wire with a plurality of indicia to measure axial movement.

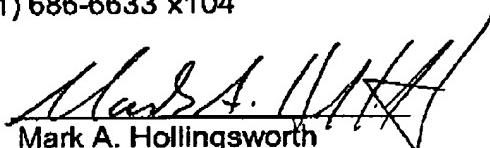
Applicant asserts that *Camer et al.* fails to teach the Applicant's invention recited in claim 1. The arguments presented above in connection with the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Camer et al.* are reasserted with respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 6. *Sugita et al.* does not cure the deficiencies of *Carner et al.*, therefore claim 6 is patentable over the combination of *Camer et al.* and *Sugita*.

The references cited by the Examiner fail to teach all the features of Applicant's claimed subject matter as claimed in independent claims 1, 14, and 17-19, either expressly or inherently. As such, independent claims 1, 14, and 17-19 are not anticipated by either *Carner et al.* or *Saab*. Because claims 2-13 and 15-16, which depend directly or indirectly on claims 1 or 14, include the features recited in the independent claims as well as additional features, Applicant submits that claims 2-13 and 15-16 are also patentably distinct from *Carner et al.* or *Saab*.

It is believed that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. It is further believed that new claim 20 is directed to allowable subject matter. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if there are any questions regarding the above new claims or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

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Date: 5/14/2003

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